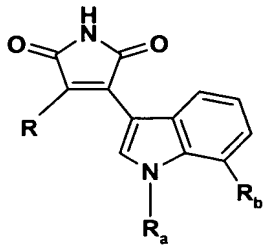
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original): A compound of formula I



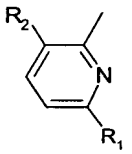
I

wherein

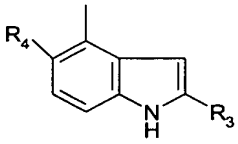
R_a is H; C_{1-4}alkyl; or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted by OH, NH_2, NHC_{1-4}alkyl or $N(di\text{-}C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$;

R_b is H; halogen; C_{1-6}alkyl; or C_{1-6}alkoxy, and

R is a radical of formula (a) or (b)



(a)



(b)

wherein

each of R_1 and R_3 is a heterocyclic residue; or a radical of formula α

$$-X\text{-}R_c\text{-}Y \qquad (\alpha)$$

wherein X is a direct bond, O, S or NR_{11} wherein R_{11} is H or C_{1-4}alkyl,

R_c is C_{1-4}alkylene or C_{1-4}alkylene wherein one CH_2 is replaced by CR_xR_y wherein one of R_x and R_y is H and the other is CH_3, each of R_x and R_y is CH_3 or R_x and R_y form together $-CH_2\text{-}CH_2-$,

Y is bound to the terminal carbon atom and is selected from OH, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$ wherein each of R_{12} and R_{13}, independently, is H, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl, aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl or C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, halogen, C_{1-4}alkoxy or $-NR_{14}R_{15}$ wherein each of R_{14} and R_{15}, independently, is H, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, or R_{12} and R_{13} form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue; and

each of R_2 and R_4, independently, is H; halogen; C_{1-4}alkyl; C_{1-4}alkoxy; CF_3; nitrile; nitro or amino,

or a salt thereof.

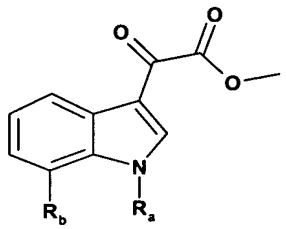
Claim 2. (Original): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_a is H, methyl, ethyl, or isopropyl, or a salt thereof.

Claim 3. (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein R_b is H, Cl, methyl or ethyl, or a salt thereof.

Claim 4. (Currently amended): A compound ~~according to any one~~ of claims 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein R_1 is a heterocyclic residue, e.g. a piperazinyl, optionally substituted on a ring nitrogen or on a ring carbon, e.g. 4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl, or 4,7-diaza-spiro[2.5]oct-7-yl; or a radical of formula (α) wherein X is a direct bond, R_c is CH_2 and Y is $-NR_{12}R_{13}$ wherein each of R_{12} and R_{13}, independently, is H, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl or C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, halogen, C_{1-4}alkoxy or $-NR_{14}R_{15}$ wherein each of R_{14} and R_{15}, independently, is H or C_{1-4}alkyl; or R_{12} and R_{13} form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue e.g. a piperazinyl, or a salt thereof.

Claim 5. (Currently amended): A compound ~~according to any one~~ of claims 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein R_2 and/or R_4 is H; Cl, F; CF_3; nitrile; nitro or amino, or a salt thereof.

Claim 6. (Original): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which process comprises reacting a compound of formula II



(II)

wherein R_a and R_b are as defined in claim 1,

with a compound of formula III

$$R - CH_2 - CO - NH_2 \qquad (III)$$

wherein R is as defined in claim 1,

and, where required, converting the resulting compound of formula I obtained in free form to a salt form or vice versa, as appropriate.

Claim 7. (Currently amended): A compound of formula I according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 5~~, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form for use as a pharmaceutical.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to 5~~, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier therefor.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): A compound of formula I according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 5~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment or prevention of disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC or GSK-3β.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A method for preventing or treating disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC or GSK-3β in a subject in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 5~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.